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Filed: April 14, 2000

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By: Beth Costner
Beth Costner

Asst. Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D. C. 20231

Sir:

Applicants request that the information listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 be considered by the Office during the pendency of the above-entitled application, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.97. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.97(h), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not constitute an admission that any information cited therein is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. 1.56(b). In the interest of full and complete disclosure to the Office, some or all of the art cited herein may not be considered by Applicant(s) or the Undersigned to be material under the standards of materiality defined in 37 C.F.R. 1.56(b), enacted March 16, 1992, but may merely be technical background which may be of interest to the Examiner.

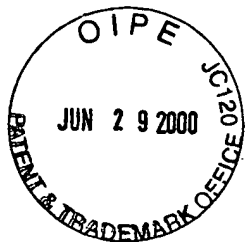
In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b) within three months of the filing date of the application, or before the mailing date of a first office action on

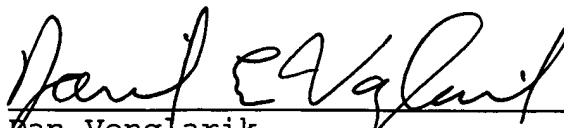


the merits. No fee or certification is required.

No fees are believed to be necessary. Please charge any fees that may be necessary for prosecution of the present application to IBM Corporation Deposit Account No. 09-0447.



Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dan Venglarik", written over a horizontal line.

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